Navigable Waterway

The Navigable Waterways Act states that any person proposing to construct a structure, place fill, excavate material, or withdraw water at a site below the ordinary high water mark of a navigable waterway must obtain the written approval of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources prior to initiating the activity. However, this approval is not required if authorization has been obtained under the Flood Control Act, the Clean Water Act, or certain other statutes. Typical INDOT projects requiring IDNR approval may include, but would not be limited to:

- * bridge and/or culvert construction or widening;
- * bank protection;
- * channel modification and/or relocation;
- * temporary runaround structure construction; and
 - construction access bridges and/or causeways.

In assessing the proposed project, IDNR is required to evaluate the singular and cumulative effects of the proposed activity upon:

- the navigability of the waterway;
- * the safety of life and property; and
- * the environment and cultural resources.

Any person proposing to undertake such an activity is required to submit the following information to the IDNR, Division of Water:

- 1. a completed application form;
- 2. proof of public notice as required by law;
- 3. plans and specifications describing the activity; and
- 4. other information as required by the department.

Processing time is dependent on the magnitude of the project, and on the completeness of the submittal. Typically, 90 to 180 days is required to complete a project review. However, the assessment of runarounds and construction access structures may be performed within two to three weeks if they are associated with a previously approved project. Additionally, work associated with previously approved projects is **not** subject to items 1 and 2 above.

All Navigable Waterway Permits include conditions. These conditions have the force of law. They must be understood and complied with. They are currently being included in the letting package, and also should be available at the construction site at all times. It is the project engineer's responsibility to be familiar with these conditions, and comply with them at all times. If there are conditions that you cannot feasibly comply with, contact the Division of Operations Support for assistance. Do not ignore any conditions. Remember, if you have one permit for an activity, you are not exempted from obtaining all other required permits for the same work. Make sure you have obtained all other required permits for the same work.

An IDNR Construction in a Floodway permit can also serve as a Navigable Waterway permit. However, exemption from the Construction in a Floodway permit does not necessarily exempt you from obtaining a Navigable Waterway permit.

DNR NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS

